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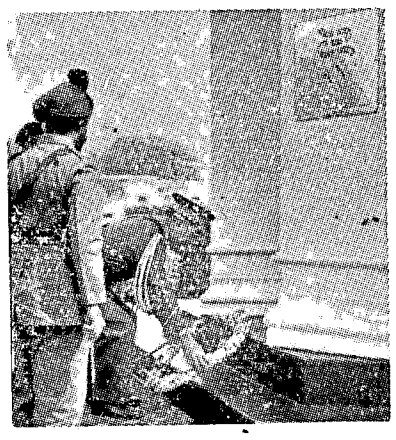

The Rajput Regiment celebrated its second post-war re-union recently at Fatehgarh. Lieut.-General Sant Singh, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Command who attended the re-union is seen here placing a wreath at the Regiment's war memorial.

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SAINIK SAMACHAR

The Pictorial Weekly of the Armed Forces

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Contents

	Page
THE AUXILIARY AIR FORCE SQUADRON	4
A TREK TO PINDARI GLACIER *Brihaspati*	5
IN THE HOME OF A HERO *Major K.C. Kapur*	7
PANZER BATTLES	8
DEVIL'S VIGIL *A short story*	9
PAVLOVA AND INDIA *Margaret Chatterjee*	11
DESH PUNJAB *Surinder Wadhawan*	12
THE LIFE OF AN AIRMAN'S WIFE *Indira Rao*	14
THE EYES OF THE NAVY *P.M.K.*	15
EX-SERVICEMEN'S RE-UNION AT AMBALA	17
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AT JULLUNDUR	18
NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL	20
CONCERNING THE FORCES	21
SALUTE THE TOFF *John Creasey*	23
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED	25
HERE'S A GOOD ONE !	26
THE TOADS *M. Krishnan*	27
RADIO PROGRAMME FOR THE FORCES	28
RESCUE IN THE SNOW *Lieut. P.N. Sodhi*	31

The Auxiliary Air Force Squadron

AIR VICE-MARSHAL A.M. ENGINEER

As many of you may be aware, it has been a tradition with us in the Indian Air Force, to celebrate Air Force Day on April 1, each year. We have chosen this historic day formally to inaugurate what will really be, the first 'citizens air force' squadron in this country. This honour will be conferred on the 51st Auxiliary Air Force Squadron which will be inaugurated by our Defence Minister, Dr. Katju, at the Delhi Flying Club near Safdarjung. Like Air Force in 1933, the Auxiliary Air Force Squadron will have just a handful of pilots and airmen and a small number of aircraft to start with. But like the Regular Air Force—of which it would be an integral and, if I may venture to predict, a very important part—the auxiliary Air Force is bound to have a great future and many an opportunity to serve the nation.

Regular reservists

Some of you might remember that in 1952, on August 14 to be exact, our Parliament passed the Reserve and Auxiliary Air Forces Act. The President, who is also the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, gave his assent to the Act five days later. I would now like to give you an idea of what this Act envisages and what its salient features are. Under this Act, three different types of Reserves are being formed. The first category of Reserves is to be known as the Regular Reserve. As the name implies, this type of reserve will comprise those officers and airmen, who have at one time or the other served in the Regular Air Force and have since gone out of the Service on release or retirement. The formation and build-up of this reserve cannot be speeded up beyond a point. The reason for this is that our Air Force is still in its early twenties. It will thus be sometime before an adequate number of its personnel, particularly its officer cadre, will have completed their stipulated periods of service with the Air Force and become available for re-employment. Eventually, however, these former Air Force personnel—both officers and other ranks—trained at our expense will form the source from which the Regular reservists would be drawn. In other words, at present we have no sizeable Regular Reserve in existence. This will, however, increase in size as the Air Force expands and matures in age.

Air defence reserve

The second type of reserves provided for by the Act is known as the Air Defence Reserve which will consist of all technical and flying personnel associated with aviation in this country but not directly connected with the Regular Air Force. This reserve will have general ground duty officers and technical personnel. The term general duty in the Air Force refers to officers employed on flying duties that is pilots and navigators. The ground duty officers and technical airmen are personnel belonging to all specialist branches and trades in æronautical engineering.

The Air Defence Reserve Act makes it obligatory for all citizens who hold qualifications, either as aircrew or as æronautical engineers, to register themselves within a specified period. The last date for such registration is laid down by the Gazette notification as April 30.

Civil aviation from where the personnel for the Air Defence Reserve will normally be drawn, has always been considered as a potential defence reserve in all countries. The important part which civil pilots and technicians played during the last war not only in India but also in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Germany—to name a few countries—is common knowledge. Civil aviation which has been nationalised in our country, therefore, automatically becomes complementary to our Air Force under the Act. The civil pilots and technicians, in other words, will be available to assist the Regular Air Force in times of national emergency.

So much for the Regular and Air Defence Reserves, I now propose talking to you in greater detail regarding the third type of Reserve which is the Auxiliary Air Force.

The Auxiliary Air Force will be composed of a number of squadrons to be raised from many of the state capitals. Apart from a small number of regular officers and airmen who are to be employed on instructional duties, these squadrons will be manned entirely by civilian personnel. The Auxiliary Air Force, as I mentioned earlier, will therefore be the citizens' air force in the true sense of the word. Drawn from amongst the permanent or semi-permanent residents of the city or locality, the officers and other ranks of these squadrons will continue to follow their normal profession, whether it is Government service, private business or any other vocational pursuit. Personnel for flying, technical and signals training will be taken in the officer cadre of each Auxiliary Squadron. Airmen for duty in six different technical trades will also be recruited. Those selected to man these Auxiliary Squadrons will be given flying training, or training for technical duties for the maintenance and servicing of aircraft, in the evenings and on week-ends and holidays. The training, in other words, is so divised as not to interfere, as far as possible, with their normal work. Their training will include an annual camp of

(Continued on 33)

• THE PICTORIAL WEEKLY OF THE ARMED FORCES •

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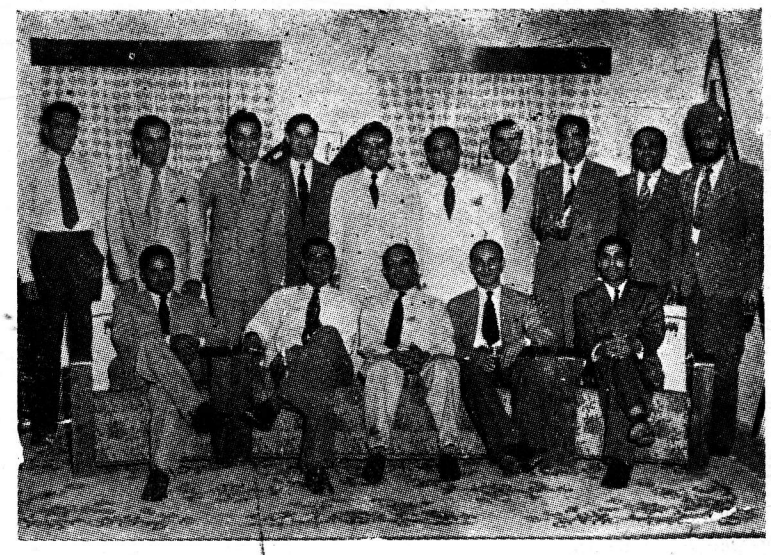
Services News in Pictures

Some of the ex-Service personnel who attended the re-union of the Rajput Regiment held recently at Fatehgarh, being introduced to Lieut.-General Sant Singh, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command.



The officers of the Naval Headquarters gave a farewell party to Rear-Admiral R.D. Katari (seated in the centre) who recently relinquished his appointment as the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

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Yuvraj Karan Singh, the Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, recently visited the NVF camp at Jorian. The Yuvraj is here seen talking to a volunteer.

Lieut.-General J.N. Chaudhri who recently visited Army units in Pathankot, photographed with two Jcos of a rail head Ammunition Depot.

★

S. Lall Singh Auzla, the Settlement Officer at Ferozepore, inaugurating an ACC work camp at Zira near Ferozepore.